

REMARKS

Applicant is unsure whether the Office Action mailed Aug. 27, 2002, was intended to be a non-final or a final Office Action. The "Office Action Summary" indicates that it is non-final (*i.e.* box "2b" is checked); however, paragraph 7 on page 2 of the "Detailed Action" indicates that it is final. In any case, Applicant respectfully requests that this amendment be entered and favorably considered.

Claims 1-3, 5, 8-14, 17-19, and 21-40 currently stand rejected. These claims have all been canceled and replaced with new claims 41-59. Therefore, upon entry of the instant amendment, the pending claims will be 41-59.

Claims 1-3, 5, 8-14, 17-19, and 21-40 were rejected under 35 USC § 112, first paragraph, for the reasons set forth in the Office Action of May 12, 1999. On page 5 of the Office Action of May 12, 1999, however, the previous Examiner (Karen Hauda) set forth subject matter which Applicant understands would be considered enabled by the specification.

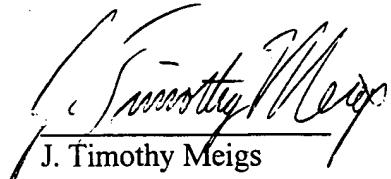
Applicants respectfully traverse the outstanding rejection and submit that the original claims were fully enabled by the specification. However, in the interest of advancing prosecution, Applicant has rewritten the claims so that they substantially correspond to what the previous Examiner indicated would be considered enabled by the specification through her comments on page 5 of the Office Action of May 12, 1999. In particular, new independent claims 41, 52, and 56 are modeled on Examiner Hauda's comments. The other new claims substantially correspond to the canceled dependent claims, *e.g.* new claim 42 corresponds to canceled claim 2, new claim 43 corresponds to canceled claim 3, etc.

Applicant expressly reserves the right to further address the merits of the rejection and pursue broader claims in a continuing application. However, in view of the new claims, Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the instant application is now ready for allowance. Early notice to this effect is now solicited. If any

additional information is needed, the Examiner is invited to call Applicant's undersigned representative at (301) 258-4715.

Respectfully submitted,


J. Timothy Meigs
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 38,241
Telephone: 301-258-4715

Novartis Corporation
Patent and Trademark Department
564 Morris Avenue
Summit, NJ 07901-1027

Date: November 26, 2002